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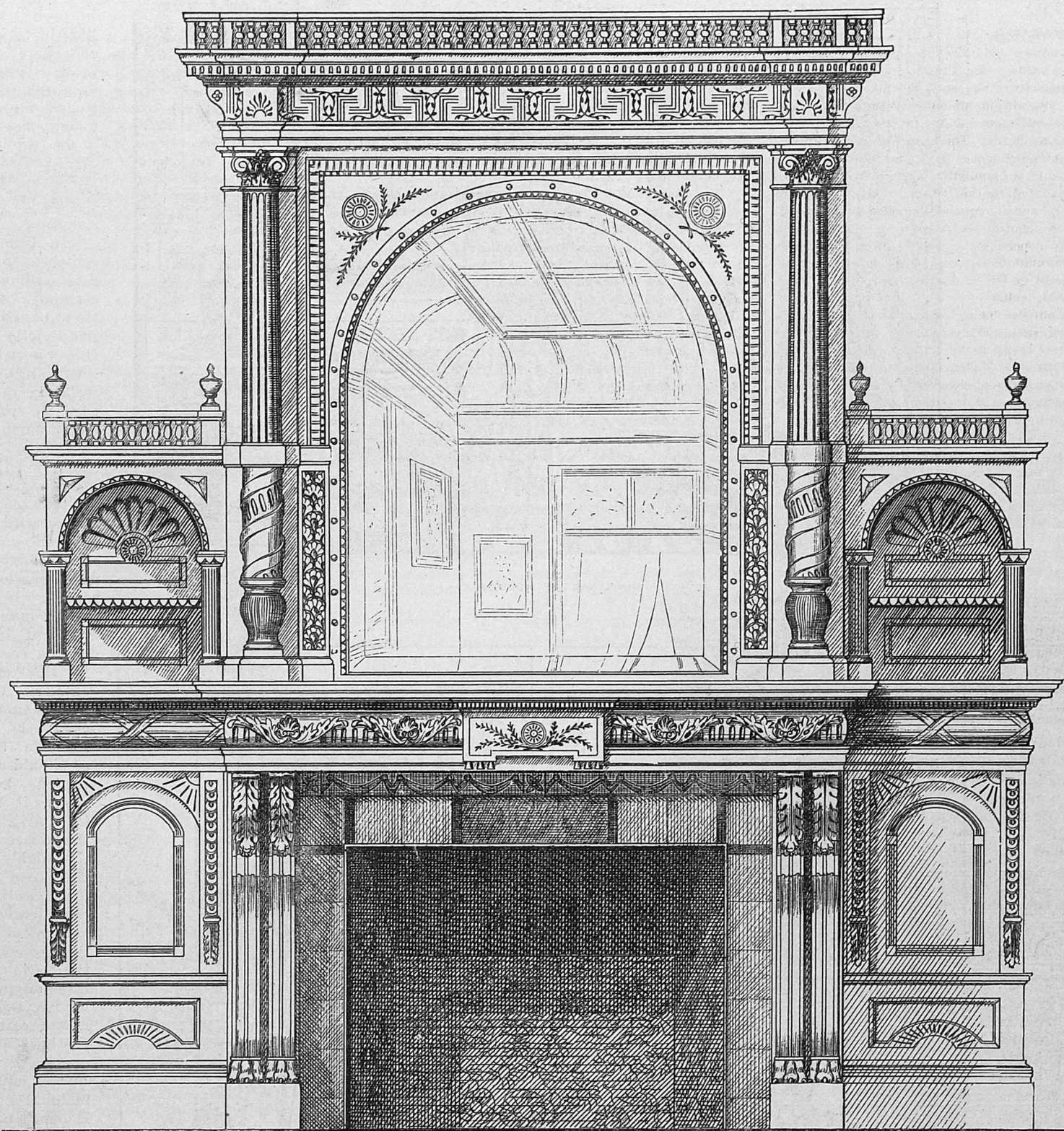
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This mantel is made of quartered, white oak, with bevelled plate mirror. The tiles in the centre of the facing are dark blue glazed, with raised rosette on each, and the other tiles plain red glazed, with one inch divisions in black, and the

Music Room Mantel for Mr. H. Conant.

C. F. Wilcox. Architect

hearth red glazed octagons, with black squares and black marble border. The fire-place lining, ornamented cast-iron. Cost, exclusive of tiles and fire-place, about \$850. It is in the residence of Mr. H. Conant, in Central Falls, R. I.

HINTS FOR HOME DECORATION.

By J. E. R. R.

Very handsome effects are obtained by the use of appliqué designs upon chair covers. These designs can be bought all ready for use, either in raised French embroidery or in Eastern work, and can be easily placed upon the back or seat of a chair which may be a little worn.

An inexpensive portière can be made of almost any mixed woollen goods, by inlaying a diagonal piece of deep-toned plush, velvet or cloth upon the centre, and having a border of the same arranged in points at the top and bottom. The centre and borders can be put on with ordinary stitching, and a narrow braid carried over the edges will add very much to the effect.

Designs in crewel are worked upon crash or linen and inserted behind the open work panel of an upright piano. Piano scarfs to lay upon the top of the instrument, can be very easily made in muslin. Stitch on a design in colors at either end.

Sofa cushions are very handsome if covered in plush and decorated with the appliqué designs referred to above. If small, fancy designs are chosen; they look best when arranged as if scattered upon the surface of the material. The effect of the old-fashioned "powdering" is given by this means.

It is very easy to upholster chairs at home, now that plain seats and backs are in fashion. A paper pattern the correct size should first be cut out; from this the material is cut, and then nail in place with upholsterers' tacks; a narrow gimp with brass-headed nails conceals the edges and gives a "shoppy" effect.

A very pretty design for a tea cosy is that of the tea plant with flowering blossom, which can be worked in crewels upon one side of the cosy, while upon the other a teacup and saucer in Japanese pattern look very well.

In small bedrooms a draped dressing table and glass are very pretty; in larger ones the bureau and glass are so universal that one rarely sees the transparent muslin over brightly-tinted paper muslin, which is at once so effective and so pretty. Yet for those who study decorative effects, there is really nothing that will repay them better. If, in addition, a drapery is arranged over the looking-glass and tied back with bright ribbons, the whole room will look the brighter and the prettier for it.

Handsome table-cloths are now made of jute velours, which is of wide breadth, and can be bought of the proper size in squares, to be made up at home by the addition of a bordering of deeper colored cloth, and finished off with tassels. In some cases a centre-piece of different material is appliquéd on.

Very pretty little brackets are made of Japanese fans by the simple addition of a little shelf, supported upon strips of narrow wood. The shelf can be either of cardboard or of thin wood, covered with any kind of fancy paper.

A very effective mantel finish can be made by fixing a rod and drapery from the lower part of the frieze, and letting the drapery cover the whole piece above the mantel. The drapery should fall for some distance below the mantel board and by the addition of a fringe on the edge, and then festooning the hanging in some graceful way about the mantel, a pretty combination of drop and lambrequin is made. In addition to its graceful appearance, it affords a background for pictures, plaques or statuettes. An addition is sometimes made by placing a mirror behind the centre of the hanging, and parting the drapery in the middle in such a way as to show a glimpse of it.

Bullion is much used now in effective embroideries, and so, too, is silver thread.

Chenille is a very valuable agent in the decoration of the handsome materials that are now seen on every hand. It combines well with appliqué designs, and looks extremely well at a distance. Silk chenille is used for the raised round ornaments, which correspond in decoration to the polka dots in fashionable dress fabrics.

Window curtains for the lower half of windows can be made of fine thin muslin painted in water colors. The effect of these transparencies is extremely pretty and graceful, and a great improvement where the view outside is unpleasant.

Dinner tables are now often decorated in color. Occasionally a wide strip of deeply-toned velvet is placed down the centre, and a lace insertion, let into the cloth, allows the color to be seen through. A very inexpensive way of adding decorative effect is by lightly serving little Japanese squares at each guest's plate. The effect is as if a regular pattern were carried down the sides of the table, and as these squares are inexpensive, it is of no moment if they are soiled, which is not the case when velvet and plush are used, as they sometimes are.

Scarfs to throw over the end of a sofa or lounge are very easily made, by taking a breadth of cross striped stuff and simply sewing a fringe on the ends.

Extremely pretty guest cards can be of home make. Take a yard of ottoman ribbon about an inch and a half wide, and divide it into three pieces, fringe out the ends, and in the centre of each paint a flower or emblem, beneath which the initial or name of the guest can be painted. If it is not possible to paint upon the silk, any pretty little design upon card can be pasted on. Placed upon the dinner napkins in each guest's place, these little souvenirs brighten up a table wonderfully.